

SUPER-ABILITIES OF THE FAMOUS LITERARY IMAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES CREATED BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

The article deals with the literary character of Sherlock Holmes created by Arthur Conan Doyle. The stories by Arthur Conan Doyle and their translations into Russian and Azerbaijanian are taken into account. The author of the article showed in his doctoral dissertation the year of appearance of each of these sixty detective stories and novels, the name of translator of each of them into Russian and also mentioned names of Azeri translators from the language of the original or from their Russian option since the year of 1957. The latters helped to the development of the Azeri detective genre as well. Among them novels of Jamshid Amiror are especially famous in our country. He described the heroic actions of local police officers against criminal elements and the influence of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is seriously felt in them.

Key words: Arthur Conan Doyle, English literature, crime literature, especially the character and image of Sherlock Holmes.

ABSTRACT. In 22 scientific articles, recently published by the author of these lines, major features of the character of the Detective Sherlock Holmes are described on the basis of investigating the detective aspect of the literary creation of this great English writer Arthur Conan Doyle in Baku since last 12 years. But in 1992 we defended our candidate dissertation and received a corresponding diploma from Moscow Higher Attestations Committee for our previous dissertation on the theme "Early and War Time Novels of John Bointon Priestley". Both candidate and doctoral dissertations had been done at the Baku State University where we are employed since the year of 1975. In the presented article we wanted to describe the basics of our doctoral thesis devoted to the detective stories and novels by Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), which we are going to produce to the Scientific Board of the Baku State University. It consists of eight main chapters. *In the first of them* we referred to facts of life of this author, his primary education at the Stoniherst Izuit College, then his academic years at the Edinburgh University where he gained his diploma of master of medicine. After that his voyage on the steam sealer and whaler ship "Mayumba" as a doctor, then his establishing a small medical treatment office at Sautsea town's Bush-villa in September of 1882 and about his literary activity in his leisure hours which were almost the whole days [1].

Arthur Conan Doyle published several stories and narratives till he remembered about his University teacher professor Josef Bell who had applied the method of deduction to the diagnosing of the ill people at his own clinics and where he allowed his beloved student working as a helper after his academic hours [2]. So, remembering him in 1887 A. Conan Doyle wrote the narrative entitled as "A Study in Scarlet", where he applied this deduction method to the investigation of crimes. The editor James Pain refused to publish it in his "Cornhill Magazine" and some times later it was printed in the small publishing house "Fred Warn" by Mr. S. Bottany. In this particular story a man by the name of Cefferson Houpp killed in England two Americans who had destroyed his family overseas and had made him unhappy. They were Drebber and Stangerson; both belonged to American Mormon tribe who used to keep several wives at the same time in Cleveland of Ohio. Cefferson's case is given as a story inside the bigger story. The literary character Sherlock Holmes detected this person by placing the false announcement in the newspaper about the golden engagement ring which as if was found before the empty house where one of enemies of Cefferson old Drebber was killed by him. But the killer did not come personally to Baker-street to pick up the ring and sent a friend of him with abilities of an actor and dressed in a manner of old woman and who was very quick to draw away at once from the residence of Holmes who understood his aim. Readers were acquainted with a clever detective for the first time in this function. Then in 1890 the new narrative "Sign of Four" brought a wider fame to Conan Doyle [3].

INTRODUCTION. In 1891 he paved the way to "Strand Magazine" and published there his new work with the participation of Holmes named "A Man with a Twisted Lip" with illustrations by Sidney Payget. And gradually during next thirty years the image of Holmes appeared in 60 stories which are analyzed in eight chapters of our investigation. *In the second chapter* there are four stories of Conan Doyle without participation of this Detective. They are "A News Brought by Hebekuk", "Discovery of Rafs Hoy", "Maracot Depth" and "Trade House of Herdlstone" [4].

The third chapter is devoted to the help of Sherlock Holmes to young and helpless English ladies where nine pieces are included. They are "the Adventure of Solitary Cyclist", "the Adventure of the Speckled Band", "The Disappearance of Lady Francis Karfax", "A Noble Bachelor", "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches", "The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarters", "The Adventure of a Creeping Man", "A Case of Identity" and "The Adventure of Charles Augustos Milverton".

Then in the fourth chapter entitled as "Requests to Holmes from VIP People" and there are "The Adventure of Bruce Partington Plan", "The Musgrave Ritual", "The Adventure of the Second Stain", "The Naval Treaty", "The Adventure of Beril Coronet" and "The Greek Interpreter". All references were made on the basis of two volumed collection named "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" and published in New-York in 1985 with the Foreword of L. Estelman [5].

In the fifth chapter four large novels with the participation of Detective Holmes – "The Sign of Four", "The Hound of Baskervilles", "The Valley of Fear" and "Study in Scarlet" are analyzed.

Then comes chapter six which is entitled as "Holmes against the Organized Criminals". It covers 18 stories. The final eighth chapter is named "The Other Examples of Sherlockiana" and contains another 17 pieces. All together the dissertation covers all 60 pieces of Conan Doyle written in the detective genre.

So readers loved the great detective and there had always been a long queue before kiosks of newspapers to get a copy of "Strand Magazine" to have a story with a new adventure of the great detective. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for ever parted with a needy life and built the marvelous house named Andershow and became wealthy and famous all over the world thanking to his image Sherlock Holmes. But very soon A. Conan Doyle published his lyrical-sentimental ballades under the impression of gentle senses to Jean Leckie where he described the love attitude between a woman Mod Selby and Frank Gross and readers became unsatisfied by the low level of this book. Of course, after the death of his wife Louisia Hawkins Conan Doyle married Jean Leckie and in 1898 he wrote another book of poems and ballades entitled as "Songs Calling to Action". So his first wife died in 1904 and Arthur remarried the second one a year later and lived another 25 happy years with her.

REASON OF THE FAME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. In 1930 Arthur Conan Doyle died but his hero Sherlock Holmes lives eternally with us [6]. And many new books about this detective image are still published in many countries of the world. And what was the reason for it?

Firstly, he was the man of the materialist outlook and had never believed in superstitious powers. In "The Hound of Baskervilles" he ironized upon words of Doctor Mortimer from "The Hound of Baskervilles" saying that he could never believe to the Devil doing his job only in one village [7]. In the other detective story "Foot of the Devil" he defined that nobody came and went out from the place of crime and found out that the reason of the tragic event was the unknown narcotic dust brought from Africa. The same could be said about the action of Holmes in the detective story "Sussex Vampire" where the woman was suspected in doing a crazy action.

Secondly, Holmes several times met various savage animals and was enough brave to overcome the difficulties caused by them. In the story "The Speckled Band" Holmes came back to the villa of Doctor Roylott and overstruggled the dangerous snake and could put it back to the strong box saving the life of helpless lady. In the story of "The Crooked Man" the former soldier keeps a mongoose with him and Holmes was able to know his secret. In "the Veiled Lady" the lodger constantly hiding her face wanted to commit a suicide but Holmes helped her to survive. In the event of the past she was not truthful to her husband and the lion "a King of Sahara" disfigured her face. Here the reader feels the influence of American writer Edgar Allan Poe's story "Murder in the Rue Morgue" where the young girl was killed by the huge Gorilla but a big sum of money remained untouched and Mr. Dupin discovered it properly [8]. In fact, Arthur Conan Doyle called this writer as his teacher. In the Conan Doyle's story "Silver Blaze" so named horse killed with the strike of its back leg its trainer Stoker. Holmes defined it and allowed the other man by name of Simpson who was arrested by polis to be liberated from the prison. In the darkness of the night that trainer of horses had intended to make a slight cut in the knuckle of the Silver Blaze.

Thirdly, Holmes was very attentive to his dress and was extremely sensitive to his speech in conversations with women. In our research the whole chapter was devoted to his service for young and talented English girls. One of such ladies is the daughter of professor Presbury from the academic town of Camford ["The Adventure of a Creeping Man"]. The other request came from Violet Hunter who was employed in the town Winchester of South-Hamptonshire and was surrounded by dangerous people in the story "Copper Beeches" and Holmes rendered assistance to her. The Detective acted against the very beautiful singer and actress by the name Iren Adler with a request of the king of Hohemiya. Holmes adored and admired her. But as the detective had a number of serious enemies he did not either marry, or support contacts with his own relatives. So, like church pastors he had never considered to make a family and to bring up his followers [9].

4. Readers could also be sorry for a bad habit of this great investigator of crimes. For example, in the second piece about this detective – in "The Sign of Four" Doctor Watson describes jobless Holmes waiting for clients week after week and injecting a narcotic drug to his own vain. Once his friend was dead tired of watching it and asked him that what he would use on that very day, morphy or cocaine and received his answer that seven presented cocaine. The Doctor warned him that it would bring him to the brain damage and to a cell poisoning, so he was to be careful in doing that. In fact, it was mistake of Conan Doyle and he had never considered that this image would bring a fame and wealth to his creator. Therefore he never repeated to mention this negative feature of him. And in the other detective story entitled as "A Man with a Twisted Lip" Watson met his friend in the narcotic bar but not enjoying him with a dangerous drug but investigating the case of Nevil Sent-Cler who had suddenly disappeared. And the fact that narcotic bars were in an official existence in late nineteenth century in such a highly developed country as the United Kingdom meant that this kind of permission is not a reflection of a super-democracy but

absent-mindedness of higher governmental quarters. In fact, at that time all theatre actors dealt with that as a normal life style. Nevertheless, many literary critics turned rather negatively to this habit of a man with such a strong will and character.

5. All readers were deeply interested in the education of Sherlock Holmes. Author never mentioned it directly but in the detective story "Gloria Scott" narrated on behalf of Detective himself it is mentioned that his former University class-mate Victor Trevor invited him to spend the summer in their huge mansion as his father was a judge in the court. In the other story also narrated from the side of Sherlock Holmes he dealt with also his former class-mate of him from a noble family Reginald Musgrave. The latter invited the detective to investigate the case of disappearance of his servant Branton. So readers could come to conclusion that these wealthy people studied in one of elitary Universities together with Holmes.

What concerns his friend Watson, at early days of their sharing the flat at Baker-street the Doctor had put several questions to define his speciality and came to conclusion that he had zero knowledge in astronomy, mathematics, botany. But he was deeply acknowledged in chemistry, especially he could easily recognize all kinds of poisons and when some people came to him to whisper in the bedroom he at once knew which region he had come from according to the mud on footwear of a newcomer and which cigarette was smoked on the basis of ashes remained in the ashtray. When Doctor Watson knew why all these people attended their apartment then he began to participate in Holmes's investigations and realized for himself that not only traces of foot on the floor or on the ground helps him but also he worked out a perfect system for the structure of hands for defining the worker doing the earthy work with shovel, seaman pulling the ropes, people doing the writing or cutting precious stones.

In most of 60 pieces of detective stories and novels the author starts his narrations with preludes to give the notion to his readers about details of detection [10]. From this point of view in his "Disappearance of Lady Frances Karfax" Holmes tells his friend that he was in the Turkish bath-house and returned by the cab sitting at the right side. Watson confirmed all that and wanted to know how his friend realized them. Holmes explained him that when somebody has white socks and desires to clean black shoes he deals with only lower parts of them. But when they are taken off from feet they are cleaned perfectly and it is done only in a bath-house. And as the raincoat of the Doctor is spouted with mud particles on the right side only it means that Watson was in the cab with two other passengers. In the preliminary episode of the other story Watson showed him his pocket watch and requested to give the explanation. Holmes told him that it earlier belonged to Doctor's father and then was gifted to his brother and the engraving on the surface of it confirms that and then he badly needed a money and brought it to a pawn shop for several times. Then he began to drink much what becomes known from his keeping these valuable watches in the pocket together with his keys. Doctor was seriously offended hearing all these facts but he was sure that they were all true [11].

In the first pages of "Hound of Baskerville" returning from an evening walk Watson and his friend saw a stick forgotten in their guest-room. Holmes attentively watched it and found out that it belonged to a Doctor Mortimer from Charing-Cross Hospital and when the visitor came again Watson witnessed to correctness of his friend's suggestion. In "Blue Carbuncle" the policemen Peterson brings the hat of a man who drew away from him and Holmes told him all details about that person who became poorer lately, whose wife doesn't respect him any longer and who is rather clever man. All these things Holmes defined by means of deductive method [12].

Watson complained that he also saw and heard all that his friend did but to his regret Doctor did not understand anything at all happening around him till the last minute. These words he told at the story "Red-Headed League". Thus, a normal man like Watson is included to the Sherlockiana to show the detective's super abilities in comparison with ordinary people. A bright example to it is given in the story "The Adventure of the Empty House" where Holmes demonstrated the supreme vision, hearing abilities and his unfearable will [13]. Therefore readers admire such rear heroes.

METHODOLOGY. In the presented article the structure of the doctoral dissertation of Dr. Gabil Akhmedov entitled as "The Complex Research of the Detective Creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" various features of the Detective Holmes were illuminated. Among them a materialist outlook, dealing with various savage animals, his undelayed service for young and talented English girls, his injecting a narcotic drug, and in preludes giving the notion to his readers about details of detection methods. It is told that Holmes demonstrates the supreme vision, hearing abilities and his unfearible will. Facts about his education and habits are also given in the presented article. It is also mentioned that detective stories and novels made the author famous all over the world and wealthy, though he left us in 1930 but his literary image Sherlock Holmes remained with us forever and his books are published in most countries.

RESULTS. Detective stories and novels with participation of famous detective Sherlock Holmes helped the investigators of crimes not only in England but in all over the world to apply his uncial methods in their own work as all of these detective stories soon after their appearance in the home country of Arthur Conan Doyle were translated to languages of many advanced countries of the globe. Therefore not in vain Her Excellency the Quine of United Kingdom strongly advised to police officer of Her time to read these detective pieces. It is indeed a deep knowledge to recognize what part of the country a man represents from the mud in his boots, to define at once what is his profession from the linotype of his hand whether he is sailor, a person doing writing job, digger of the soil and

so on. Holmes shows how to find out the age of a person writing a text as in the case of "Reiget Squires", to understand does it belong to a man or woman from the "Hound of Baskervilles" and so on.

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Ахмедов Г. Надможливості відомого літературного образу Шерлока Холмса, створеного Артуром Конан Дойлом.

У даній статті розглянуто історію появи художнього жанру детективного роману, причому розкрито обставини появи кожного з шістдесяти детективних оповідань і новел, відзначено ім'я кожного перекладача російською, а також азербайджанською мовами з мови оригіналу або з їх російського варіанту в шістдесяті роки минулого сторіччя. Ця робота в певній мірі допомогла в розвитку азербайджанського детективного жанру. Серед них в нашій країні особливо відомі романи Джамишида Амірова. Він описав героїчні дії місцевих міліціонерів проти кримінальних елементів під впливом письменника Артура Конан Дойла.

Ключові слова: Артур Конан Дойл, англійська література, кримінальна література, особливості характеру і образу Шерлока Холмса.

Ахмедов Г. Сверхвозможности известного литературного образа Шерлока Холмса, созданного Артуром Конан Дойлом.

В данной статье рассмотрена история появления художественного жанра детективного романа, причем раскрываются обстоятельства появления каждого из этих шестидесяти детективных рассказов и новел, указывается имя переводчика каждого из них на русский, а также на азербайджанский язык с языка оригинала или с их русского варианта в шестидесятые годы прошлого столетия. Эта работа в определенной мере помогла также развитию азербайджанского детективного жанра. Среди них в нашей стране особенно известны романы Джамишида Амирова. Он описал героические действия местных милиционеров против криминальных элементов под влиянием писателя Артура Конан Дойла.

Ключевые слова: Артур Конан Дойл, английская литература, криминальная литература, особенности характера и образа Шерлока Холмса.